

From: Gary Beavan [gary@puterbaughconstruction.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2009 10:24 AM
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Subject: Please vote NO on residential fire sprinkler systems

I respectfully request that you VOTE NO on making fire sprinklers mandatory in residential construction. I am a member of BIAW and my local chapter, Central Washington Home Builders Association. Here are my reasons

- New homes are already safe.
- U.S. fire deaths have declined 54% from 1977 to 2007 while the population grew by 80 million.
- Fire sprinkler systems are more costly than fire officials' claim.
 - Note: study conducted last year by the SBCC found the cost can range from \$1.50 to \$8.50 a square foot. On a 2000 SF house the added cost could be as high as \$17,000.
- The actual cost to homebuyers is much more than just the price of materials and labor
 - Factors such as taxes, permits, inspections as well as water hookup fees (determined by each local water district) can add thousands to the consumer's cost of the system.
- Fewer people will be able to afford a new home and will be forced into buying older statistically less safe housing.
- Not all jurisdictions are alike. Forcing all to comply is costly and unnecessary.
- Fire sprinklers should be a consumer/homebuyer choice. If I want to pay \$17000 for a sprinkler system let me pay it, don't MANDATE IT IN CODE.

I thank you for your consideration.

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